

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification as follows:

The paragraph beginning at page 5, line 4, has been amended.

A -- Each of the nodes N1 110, N2 120, N3 130, N4 140, N5 150, N6 160, N7 170, and N8 180 is an ATM switch that performs switching and routing functions. A connection is made when a node requests a switched virtual circuit (SVC/ SPVC) call. Messages are sent and forwarded from one node to another via established connection links. For example, node N1 110 is connected to nodes N2 120 and CPE's 111 and ~~113~~ 112; node N6 160 is connected to nodes N3 130, N5 150, and N7 170. Each of the nodes N1 110, N2 120, N3 130, N4 140, N5 150, N6 160, N7 170, and N8 180 is capable of measuring its own operational conditions such as traffic flow status, resource availability, maintenance status, etc. The measurement can be performed by any method suitable for the nodes. This is typically done locally at each ATM switch or network node. For example, the measurement can be performed using inter-switch network information or Service Specific Connection Oriented Protocol (SSCOP) L3 as specified in the ATM UNI 3.1 and 3.0. The measured conditions are used to indicate a congestion status which indicates whether or not a node has become congested. This congestion status can be broadcast or advertised to other nodes within the network. The broadcasting or advertising of the congestion status can be performed by setting a transit flag in the node. This transit flag is accessible to other nodes. In one embodiment, the transit flag is one of a topology state parameter in a PNNI system. The topology state parameter is part of a PNNI topology state element (PTSE) which is transmitted in a PNNI topology state packet (PTSP). The PTSE is routing information that is flooded in a peer group. The PTSP contains one PTSE. The topology state parameters include metrics and attributes. Examples of the metrics are maximum cell transfer delay (MCTD), maximum cell delay variation (MCDV), maximum cell loss ratio (MCLR), and administrative weight. Examples of attributes are available cell rate (ACR), cell rate margin (CRM), variation factor (VF), branching flag, and restricted transit flag.--
